The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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BUSINESS OLIGARCHS MUST CHANGE TACTICS

New York, Feb. 1.—Industry can no longer be ruled as an oligarchy, and democratic principles must be applied, declared R. J. Caldwell, business man of this city and member of the employers' industrial reconstruction investigating commission, appointed by the department of labor to make a survey of the European industrial situation.

"We rule our industry as an oligarchy," said Mr. Caldwell. "We regulate wages arbitrarily—save where labor unions are able to intervene. We refuse to consult with the workers about their own working conditions.

"What harm can it do to extend the application of democratic principles to industry? They have proved themselves in government. Is it not reasonable to suppose that they will prove equally applicable to industry?

"Labor can not longer be regarded as a commodity, which, like rubber and wheat, can be stored on the shelf or in the bin in slack season for times of greater demand. Working men and women are living souls—hungry in times of famine as in times of plenty—and they have come to realize that they are souls, and not merchandise, and must be treated accordingly.

"Every business must in times of plenty provide an insurance fund for times of famine, and every business must govern all of its members by the consent of the governed."

PACKER IS MOURNFUL.

Washington, Feb. 1.—These are sad days for the meat packer, according to J. Ogden Armour, who assured the senate committee on agriculture that "there are some people who wouldn't have any business and there are times when I don't blame them."

Mr. Armour said the reason that the five great packing plants have forged ahead is because "there are people who perhaps work a little harder, who take more chances, who add more things to their business, who go into greater detail and thus work out to a large basis."

Mr. Armour stated, however, that half a billion dollar investment was necessary to go into the packing business.

Mr. Armour admitted that the "big five" packers maintain a secret fund "for purposes of legislation and litigation," and that the assessments were based on the amount of business done. It was also admitted that the food administration permitted the packers to make 4 per cent profit in addition to 9 per cent profit, which has been claimed heretofore as the limit of the packers' profits. The 4 per cent profit was kept secret, Mr. Armour said, and was allowed for the purpose "of paying interest on money borrowed."

The witness agreed that the total profits of his concern were nearer $35,000,000 than $15,000,000, as had been asserted.

Later, in discussing his relations with the other packers, Mr. Armour said "we are all content to go along and make a little money."

WANTS CHANCE TO WORK.

Washington, Feb. 1.—The government owes no man a living, but it does owe him an opportunity to make a living, said Secretary of Labor Wilson, in discussing the present industrial situation.

"I am not one of those who take the ground that a country or a government owes every man a living," he said, "but all governments, all organized society is man-created, and consequently, more or less artificial because of the restrictions that must of necessity be imposed for the purpose of enabling us to live in harmony with each other. And because of those restrictions, men have not always the opportunity of working for themselves, and I am one of those who believe that all good governments will see to it that every man has the opportunity to earn a living. In other words, the government does not owe him a living, but it owes him the opportunity to earn a living."

BIG JAIL INCREASE.

Boston, Feb. 1.—A short time ago this state was discussing the question of consolidating jails because of the small number of inmates. Since the armistice was signed the project has been abandoned, because of the increased prison population. In the Charles street jail in this city the number of inmates has jumped 100 per cent since last November. Sheriff Kelliher says idleness is responsible for this condition.

"When men have work," he said, "they are not liable to be led astray. I would remind you that the first vagrancy law was put on the statute books in 1866, largely as the result of vagrancy following demobilization after the civil war."

WOULD BAN IMMIGRATION.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Prohibition of immigration for four years after the war, except natives from Cuba, Mexico, Canada and New Foundland, has been agreed to by the house immigration committee.

The American Federation of Labor supported the measure on the theory of "America first," and that there are a sufficient number of foreigners in this country that should be assimilated. The present labor surplus was also used with effect by the trade unionists and other advocates of this measure.

BIGGEST RAILWAY UNION.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 1.—The Brotherhood Railway Car Men of America reports a membership of 172,725 on the first of the year.

"Ours is the largest railroad organization in America," said President Ryan, who declares the car men "have just struck their stride. We have raised wages, shortened hours, improved conditions and developed a lasting trade union morale among the men in our calling," he said.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Augusta, Ga., Feb. 1.—Organized street car men have renewed an agreement with the local traction company. The wage schedule dates back to the first of the year, with a minimum of 36 cents an hour and a maximum of 40 cents. The men refused to accept a long-term contract, and have signed for 12 months.

LUMBER MEN UNITING.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Feb. 1.—Loggers and timber workers in this city are organizing.

MINOR ISSUES BEFOG DEMAND FOR JUSTICE

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 1.—The West Virginia Federationist jeers the oratorical efforts of state legislators who thunder on minor matters while they ignore vital problems that affect the workers' lives.

In a biting editorial which shows how social unrest is developed, Editor Snyder says:

"It is edifying indeed to hear the sonorous voices of the aforesaid legislators loudly defending the rights of their constituents in the advocacy of the sheep-killing dog laws, independent school districts, municipal charter bills and salary increases of the nether judges of the primal courts, and the long, loud oratorical efforts of the spell-binding class prating about the rights of the taxpayers and the masses of the people.

"It's inspiring to listen to the great tirades against the red flaggers and the bolshevist menace to our great democratic institutions of profit mongers and patrioteers. Yes, it makes your blood curdle to listen to the dire destruction that will follow in the wake of the agitators who are asking this great and august body of patriots to grant the coal diggers of this state the legal right to force the gigantic overlord or industry to weigh the product of their labor upon scales that deal out equal and exact weights to all. Yea verily it is a travesty upon justice that the lowly coal miner should seek that he be paid in full measure for the product of his toil.

"Yes, he should be rebuked. Allow him not this rightful tithe: outlaw he and his kind, give him not the right of free speech and free assemblage; ban his symbolic emblem of human right and freedom; divorce him as a stranger in a strange land from the Jeffersonian constitution; make him a wanderer upon the face of the earth, the victim of every gun man that may desire to prod him in the belly for his audacity of remaining on earth.

"And, aye, even more, turn the machine guns upon his family in tented colonies, like unto the feudal times of Paint Creek and Cabin Creek in the years not so far agone."

BURLESON IS "RUTHLESS."

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 1.—Organized workers who oppose Postmaster General Burleson because of his anti-union policy now have judicial company—Judge Kinkead of this city, who has issued a temporary injunction against a telephone company prohibiting the collection of long distance tolls inaugurated by the postal chief.

While the question of trade unionism is not involved, the court has undoubtedly placed himself in Mr. Burleson's "undesirable" list, because of language that only "agitators" are supposed to use against a government official.

Judge Kinkead said:

"The act of congress does not authorize the government custodian for war purposes to ruthlessly attempt to override state laws and state officials to whom are committed the powers and duties relating to such matters by our own laws and statutes. A temporary restraining order may be allowed, and so far as this court is concerned, the decree may be made permanent without further hearing."

NEW WAR STAMP RULE.

Washington, Feb. 1.—In its campaign to stop profiteering in war savings stamps, the post office department has ordered postmasters to redeem these stamps only for those persons whose name is on the certificate, since, "under the regulations, they are not transferable and are payable only to the original owners, except in case of death or disability."

Postmasters are also ordered not to redeem these stamps presented by persons or firms known to be buying, or publicly offering to buy same, "unless positive evidence is submitted that the certificates were originally issued to the persons or firms presenting them for payment."

In a previous order the post office department instructed persons who find it necessary to dispose of their stamps to present same to their postmaster, who will redeem them at face value.

TOO MUCH HARMONY BAD.

Portland, Ore., Feb. 1.—Stories of dissension at the last convention of the state federation of labor do not worry the Oregon Labor Press, which calls attention to the constructive policy adopted by the delegates and which will be accepted by the membership, the editor predicts.

"It would be a sad state of affairs," continues the editor, "if 100 delegates should meet in a convention and all agree upon all the questions that came up for consideration. Some one has said that the only place to find complete harmony is in a grave yard. It was amply demonstrated that the Oregon state federation of labor is no grave yard."

BLACKLIST IS CHARGED.

Johnstown, Pa., Feb. 1.—The Cambria Steel company is charged with selecting active trade unionists when it lays off men. It is also charged that these lists are circulated in all departments of the mill for the observation of officials.

Chicago Heights, Ill., Feb. 1.—The Durand Steel Locker company has discharged men who were reinstated by an agreement and has induced, it is charged, other employers to blacklist these workers.

U. S. TO PAY FARE HOME.

Washington, Feb. 1.—President Wilson has signed the bill empowering departmental heads to provide transportation home for discharged war employes. The bill was passed by congress and then forwarded to France for the president's signature. Many officials have taken it for granted that the president would sign the bill and have been carrying out the purposes of the act before it became a law.

PAINTERS SMASH LOCKOUT.

Houston, Texas, Feb. 1.—Painters' union No. 130 has smashed a lockout of employers, who have accepted a union-shop agreement, which calls for $7 a day for painters and $8 for paper hangers.

BRICKLAYERS GAIN.

London, Ontario, Feb. 1.—The Bricklayers and Masons' union has raised wages 5 cents an hour, making the minimum 72 cents.

COURTS BEHIND TIMES.

San Francisco Feb. 1.—Editor Scharrenberg of the Seamen's Journal says the reason courts emasculate the LaFollette seamen's law is because "the change of the status of the seamen made by that law, has been so revolutionary that it is not surprising that our courts have been slow to recognize it or accord their decisions and actions to its purpose and intent. But purpose and intent still live and they are as vital as ever."

"It is most significant," continues the labor editor, "that the supreme court of the United States is divided four to five on every case brought so far involving the seamen's act.

"First, there was the 'Chelentis' case, involving Section 20 of the seamen's act, which purported to abolish the fellow-servant rule. The decision of the majority of the court in that case is one that has been much criticized by members of the bar and there is a consensus of opinion that the supreme court will sooner or later find occasion to modify if not overrule that decision. It is by no means final."

DISCUSS WITH UNIONISTS.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Two years ago, when organized street car workers asked the Washington Railway and Electric company to sign a contract as did the other street car company in this city, the unionists were—figuratively speaking—thrown out the window. A strike followed and an investigating committee appointed by the United States senate, placed the blame on the company.

The men lost the strike. Later the non-unionists began drifting into the union and the local is again attempting to improve conditions on this road.

A committee received a different reception, however, and the matter is referred to the national war labor board. The company's board of directors now want it thoroughly understood that the company will discuss working conditions "with this committee or any other committee."

UNION SEAMEN CONVENE.

Galveston, Tex., Feb. 1.—The annual convention of the International Seamen's union, held in this city, was marked by reports of progress. In his report Secretary-Treasurer Hanson said:

"We are entering upon the year of great opportunity. Never before has the human race known such spirit and confidence. But opportunity is offset by obligation. The year will be what the people make it. Hence it is the moral duty of every one to give earnest thought and supreme endeavor toward completing the work already begun. And lest there be some who do not know, or who fail to do, let us each double our efforts in order to make sure.

"Remember, this is the year of great opportunity."

Secretary Hanson stated that the membership of the international "has now reached the 50,000 mark, and the prospects for further increases are good."

INJUNCTION IN OPERATION.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 1.—A score of trade unionists have been arrested on the charge of violating the injunction issued by Federal Judge Pollock at the request of the street car company. This concern refused to abide by a decision of the national war labor board and its employes suspended work. The unionists are charged with conspiring to hinder interstate traffic, between this city and Kansas City, Kan.

The company has imported such an especially incompetent crew of strikebreakers that collisions have demolished fenders on many of the cars.

Several months ago the company forced its employes on strike and the strikebreakers at that time aroused such opposition on the part of citizens that the chief of police was forced to run the thugs out of town.

WANTS STRIKES OUTLAWED.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 1.—Trade unionists in this state are polishing their war clubs to use on a "no-strike" bill introduced in the Kansas legislature by Representative Freeman. The bill is patterned after the Colorado law, which is violated at will by trade unionists in the Rocky mountain state.

In both cases the worker must stay at work while a state commission investigates industrial disputes. If the worker quits while the office holders confab about the matter, he'll be jailed or fined. This scheme was imported from Canada into Colorado. As trade unionists have their own notions about freedom, they are not a bit diplomatic in their opposition to any proposal that would hold them to their jobs.

ARSENALS KEPT FILLED.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Testifying before a house committee, Major General Williams, chief of ordnance, explained methods of his department to prevent the country from going back to the state it was in before the war. Sufficient arms and ammunition will be kept, he said, for an army large enough to guard the country against any possible invasion.

"The ordnance department now has 2,700,000 rifles and 2,000,000,000 rounds of ammunition and enough artillery ammunition to supply 48 divisions for six months," he said. "Similarly large quantities of other equipment is being held."

ELECTROTYPERS GAIN.

Philadelphia, Feb. 1.—Electrotypers and Finishers' union No. 72 has signed an agreement with employers. The wage provision is retroactive to the first of the year, and rates are advanced as follows: Molders and finishers, from $26 a week to $33.60; branchmen, $24 to $30, with an increase of $1.20 a week annually until wages of molders and finishers are reached. Employes will wash up on the employers' time, which establishes a 46-hour week.

LABOR HAS NEW OUTLOOK.

London, England, Feb. 1.—Discussing the causes for unrest among British workers, J. R. Clynes, trade unionist and former food controller, said that employers have failed wholly to recognize the changed outlook of the British worker who "demands a share in the amenities of civilization won by the war and he will not have the door shut to him."

STATE PAINTERS CONVENE.

Bakersfield, Cal., Feb. 1.—The California organized painters held a well attended conference in this city. Delegates declared it was the most successful meet since the conference was organized.

LABOR HAS NEW STATUS SAYS ENGLISH EDITOR

London, England, Feb. 1.—Reynolds's Newspaper, one of England's leading liberal publications, prints an editorial on after-the-war problems, in which the editor makes this significant statement:

"If there is one lesson which has been gained from the war, it is that the value of labor was always underestimated, and the value of capital always over-estimated. In the first week of the war, the whole banking system of this country would have crashed into ruin, only for the fact that the government supported the money market with the national credit. And that credit, it has been clearly shown, lay not so much in banks and capitalists, as had been supposed, as in the power of the people to use their energy and their skill to do the work that was required if we were to win the war.

"Labor has got, through the war, a new status. It has been clearly demonstrated that only those who work, whether with hand or brain, count; the rest matter little or nothing. And that fact having been demonstrated, it is likely to be made the center of the economic discussions of the future.

"We in this country have shown that, despite the fact that 6,000,000 men have been taken from industry, and millions more men and women have been diverted into making things that kill instead of things that give life, the workers have been on the whole better fed, and better off generally, than before. When those millions of men and women are again established in the arts of peace, are they all going back to the same old stage as before we learnt the great lesson? We think not."

URGE LABOR LEGISLATION.

San Francisco, Feb. 1.—California trade unionists have prepared a list of labor legislation which the state legislature will be asked to approve.

The list includes an anti-injunction law, which was vetoed by Governor Stephens in 1917. Other demands are: Apply compensation law to agricultural workers, reduce the waiting period of injured men to 10 days and re-educate workers crippled in industry; improved child labor law; increase license on private employment agencies; establish semi-monthly pay days; exempt from attachment wages to the amount of $300 earned by workers employed in Alaska canneries; authorize judges to accept liberty bonds as bail in criminal cases; limit the hours of domestic servants to 10 a day and 60 a week; six-day week for employes of state institutions; miners' eight-hour day from collar to collar of mine; improve the law relating to co-operative enterprises.

COAL MINE ACCIDENTS.

Washington, Feb. 1.—According to the reports received by the bureau of mines from the state mine inspectors of all states, except Kentucky and Kansas, 196 men were killed during October, 1918, in and about the coal mines of the states reporting, as compared with 189 in the same states in October, 1917.

During the first 10 months of 1918, 2,048 men were killed by coal-mine accidents in the United States. This figure does not include fatalities in Kentucky during the period stated, for which no reports have been received. During the corresponding months of 1917, after eliminating the same state for purposes of comparison, there were 2,107 fatalities; thus the 1918 figures show a decrease of 59 fatalities from the record of the previous year.

WANT SPECIAL JUDGE.

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 1.—It is claimed that the copper interests are gum shoeing to have the legislature create another superior court judgeship for Cochise county, in which Bisbee is located.

The trial of copper thugs who deported 1,200 citizens on July 12, 1917, will take place in Bisbee, the scene of the outrage.

If the legislature passes this law the governor will be empowered to appoint. Opponents of the proposed plan show that in criminal cases the trial judge may be disqualified by the defendants. Acting on this right the mobbers could arrange matters so that every superior court judge in this county would be disqualified except the one they hope to have appointed.

CAN'T SHELVE SAFETY LAWS.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 1.—The Pennsylvania railroad has been notified by Public Service Commissioner Brecht that safety laws are not shelved just because the road is controlled by Uncle Sam.

The commission ordered the company to establish better protection of life at a crossing and the company questioned the commission's jurisdiction to issue such an order.

The railroad was notified that "when it appears that the safety of the public is imperiled at a railroad crossing through inadequate protection by the carrier it is the primary duty of this commission, under the law, to assume responsibility in the matter and take the necessary steps to safeguard life."

GETS $28,700 FOR AN ARM.

New York, Feb. 1.—John P. Parry, a winch man employed by the Cricket Steamship company was awarded $28,700 in a federal court for injuries received when he was drawn into the winch of a vessel. He was injured internally and his right arm smashed so that its amputation was necessary. The jury was out only a few minutes. The accident happened in a Mexican port.

RAILWAY CLERKS UNITE.

Peoria, Ill., Feb. 1.—Railway clerks in this city have organized and are affiliated with the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

Jackson, Mich., Feb. 1.—Two locals of railway clerks have been organized in this city. Michigan Central railroad employes form one, and New York Central and Grand Trunk employes the other.

PHOTO ENGRAVERS STRIKE.

Denver, Feb. 1.—Photo engravers employed in local commercial shops have suspended work to enforce a new wage scale.

RAISE WAGES $4 A WEEK.

Denver, Feb. 1.—Organized lithographers have secured a one-year contract, with a wage increase of $4 a week.

NEED FOR EDUCATION IS VIVIDLY PICTURED

Washington, Feb. 1.—In a publication issued by the United States bureau of education, the need for education in this country is vividly pictured.

"What should be said of a world-leading democracy wherein 10 per cent of the adult population can not read the laws which they are presumed to know?" is asked.

"What should be said of a democracy which sends an army to preach democracy wherein there was drafted out of the first 2,000,000 men a total of 200,000 men who could not read their orders or understand them when delivered, or read the letters sent them from home?

"What should be said of a democracy which calls upon its citizens to consider the wisdom of forming a league of nations, of passing judgment upon a code which will insure the freedom of the seas, or of sacrificing the daily stint of wheat or meat for the benefit of the Roumanians or the Jugo-Slavs when 18 per cent of the coming citizens of that democracy do not go to school?

"What should be said of a democracy in which one of its sovereign states expends a grand total of $6 per year per child for sustaining its public-school system?

"What should be said of a democracy which is challenged by the world to prove the superiority of its system of government over those discarded, and yet is compelled to reach many millions of its people through papers printed in some foreign language?

"What should be said of a democracy which expends in a year twice as much for chewing gum as for school books, more for automobiles than for all primary and secondary education, and in which the average teacher's salary is less than that of the average day laborer?

"What should be said of a democracy which permits tens of thousands of its native-born children to be taught American history in a foreign language—the Declaration of Independence and Lincoln's Gettysburg speech in German and other tongues?

"What should be said of a democracy which permits men and women to work in masses where they seldom or never hear a word of English spoken?

"Yet, this is all true of the United States of America in the year of grace, 1918, wherein was fought the second battle of the Marne and the battle of the Argonne forest."

THIS BOSS A PROPHET.

Columbus, Ga., Feb. 1.—Frederick B. Gordon, president of the Columbus Manufacturing company, has joined the prophet class, and predicts the absolute and complete failure of trade unionism in "this part of the country."

Mr. Gordon is incensed at the organizing activity of the United Textile Workers, and he seems to think that he is the first employer who would deny organization among his workers.

Other employers have strutted their anti-union paces during the few brief years of their existence, but the labor movement continues. This is nothing to Gordon, who screeches:

"And this is my prophecy: That the industrial south as a whole will never, while the country remains a republic, allow itself to be bound hand and foot by that thing that seeks to stab in the heart that inherent right of selective employment belonging to every individual, firm or corporation in this country—that unholy, foreign-born, un-American, socialistic, despotic thing, known as labor unionism."

COAL MEN SLOW DOWN.

Pottsville, Pa., Feb. 1.—Is it wrong for trade unionists to resist "speeding up" systems because of excessive fatigue, and is it right for business men to limit their output so that high prices may be maintained?

Trade unionists are asking this question because of testimony by Fred M. Chase, coal operator, before a United States senate committee that is here investigating the high price of coal and other features of this industry.

Mr. Chase told the committee that the operators are opposed to running up a surplus "as a matter of business protection."

No one questioned this right of the operators to protect their business, but often the right of the worker to protect his life is questioned.

TEXTILES WANT 8 HOURS.

New York, Feb. 1.—Organized textile workers will make a general demand for the eight-hour day on February 3. President Shove, of the national association of cotton manufacturers, has announced that the workers' demands will be resisted. Other employers' organizations will assume the same attitude.

President Golden of the United Textile Workers, said:

"The present eight-hour movement was adopted at a meeting last November. Our fight is for an eight-hour day against a 54-hour week for which the manufacturers are fighting."

INSURANCE MEN CRY "WOLF."

Salt Lake City, Utah, Feb. 1.—Private liability insurance men in this state are alarmed at the agitation for state-controlled compensation insurance. Profits from the mangled bodies of workingmen and the distress of widows and orphans is threatened and the wolf cry, "state monopoly," is heard in the land.

"If our business is destroyed, yours will be the next," the insurance men say to Utah business men. Many of these business men, however, refuse to accept the theory that they are in the same class with private liability companies.

WOULD EXAMINE WORKERS.

Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 1.—George P. Bullard, corporation attorney, urged the State Bar association to favor his plan that courts be empowered to examine injured workers and present their findings in damage suits. President Croaff of the state federation of labor opposed the scheme and the matter was referred to a committee for investigation.

NOT OLD AT 75 YEARS.

Scranton, Pa., Feb. 1.—The Osler theory that a man is old at 40 years has been given a judicial black eye by Judge Edwards who ruled in a suit to place a guardian over a man 75 years old, that a man is not old at that age. Judge Edwards is 75 years old himself.

WAGES REDUCED.

Cumberland, Md., Feb. 1.—The fire brick plant in this city has reduced wages and the federal department of labor has assigned a conciliator to adjust the difficulty.

MINE CONDITIONS BAD.

Salt Lake City, Feb. 1.—The Utah Labor News is waging a campaign against conditions in Carbon county coal mines, following a protest against these conditions by the coal miners.

"These coal fields," says the labor paper, "have long been the terror of the coal miners' union, and for a long time it was thought that it would be almost impossible to organize them. Mine guards abused and threatened the workers. Men were compelled to bow to the will of the gunman, who has been supreme in Carbon county. Mine owners elected their tools to county offices and reigned in this inland autocracy of their own. It is only a year or more ago since a mine organizer was taken from his bed near Helper, Utah, and tied to a boulder in the canyon. His comrades going to work in the morning found him frozen to death.

"Miners in central Utah have pleaded in vain for justice. They were dumb before the people, as the 'bought and paid for' daily press of Utah did not have the backbone to print their stories. The daily press was hog-tied by the chain of vicious big business that formerly gagged and bound the newspapers hand and foot."

PRAISES A. F. OF L.

Washington, Feb. 1.—In urging trade unions to extend their activity for kindergarten schools, Elizabeth Harrison, writing for the United States bureau of education, expresses these kindly sentiments on the A. F. of L.:

"The Federation of Labor has put itself on record as declaring that it considers that national efficiency rests upon thorough education. This is the conviction of the men who are not accused of visionary, unpracticable views of life; for they have not been drawn into the wild vagaries of pacifism or of anarchy, but faced the common necessities of every-day life squarely, honestly and intelligently. They are the plain people whom President Lincoln trusted to keep democracy safe; and today our great president is apparently depending much upon their help. They did much to make American arms successful in the great world conflict.

"They can do, and I hope will do, much more in seeing to it that their little children shall have the same advantages all over the country that are now granted to the favored localities where kindergartens have become a part of the public school system."

PORTO RICANS MOBBED.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Feb. 1.—The mobbing of workers by police, and the sugar and tobacco interests goes merrily on. The latest mob spirit was manifested at Yabucco, where the chief of police and deputies fired on a group of sugar workers who had assembled to peacefully discuss their wrongs and attempt to improve conditions. One worker was killed and several were wounded.

Washington, Feb. 1.—In a letter to President Gompers regarding continued outrages on Porto Rican workers, Santiago Iglesias, A. F. of L. organizer, says:

"Unfortunately the workers of this island have not the power that the workers of the main land obtained, and for this reason they have never had the opportunity of a fair investigation in the field of these crimes, coldly committed against the 'peons' of Porto Rico."

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

New York, Feb. 1.—Independent manufacturers are accepting the shorter work week rule of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

About 35,000 workers struck to enforce a 44-hour week. The Dress and Waist Manufacturers' association, which employs a large number of these workers, is the bulwark of the long work week. The association has denied the unionists' claim that its shops are unhealthy and unsafe to work in. In reply President Schlesinger, of the international union, quotes a statement by Dr. George M. Price of the joint board of sanitary control of the dress and waist industry of this city in which it is shown that there were 715 shops with defects belonging to the association and 501 non-association shops that had defects.

CO-OPS. PROSPER.

Tovey, Ill., Feb. 1.—The quarterly report of the Tovey Co-operative society shows a clear profit of $466.63.

Maryville, Ill., Feb. 1.—The Co-operative society at this place reports a dividend of 8 per cent, based on the amount of purchases made by each member during the past six months. The dividend totals $1,386.81.

Fargo, N. Dak., Feb. 1.—The Equity Co-operative exchange reports a clear profit of $31,358.65 during the last five months.

Cochrane, Ontario, Feb. 1.—Railway workers at this place have purchased the grocery business of a local concern and will conduct it along co-operative lines.

INCREASE NOT ENOUGH.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 1.—Commercial Telegraphers' union No. 89 has protested against the recent wage increase order of Postmaster General Burleson, who is charged with accepting a scale favored by the Western Union company's "union." The telegraphers say they were promised equity when the government took over the lines, and they now ask for an eight-hour day, reinstatement of victimized members throughout the country and a rate of wages that will permit of American standards.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 1.—About 800 members of Typographical union No. 7 are benefitted by a new wage scale. Day newspaper workers will be paid 77 cents an hour and night men 83 cents with back pay averaging $50 a man. The commercial shop rates are advanced $5 to $7 a week, the new scale being $29 a week for hand men and $32 a week for machine operators.

SECURE 8-HOUR DAY.

Indianapolis, Feb. 1.—Metal Polishers' union No. 171 has secured a union-shop, eight-hour agreement with the Indianapolis stove works. Wages are increased approximately 25 per cent and a shop committee will adjust differences with the management.

ENGINEERS GAINING.

Denver, Feb. 1.—Stationary Engineers' union No. 1 reports that it is establishing a new wage scale without serious difficulty. Rates have been substantially raised.

ALASKA CANNERIES EXPLOIT WORKERS

San Francisco, Feb. 1.—The labor council has called on the federal department of labor to investigate conditions in the Alaska fisheries and canning industry, which is operated by Chinese who secure contracts from the companies.

It is stated that the government annually propagates millions of fish and turns them loose in the waters of the territory of Alaska and the contractors exploit workers who are recruited by glowing advertisements in Pacific coast towns from the lowest strata of all nationalities. The police courts aid the contractors by giving prisoners the option of going to jail or to Alaska to can fish.

When the employe steps on a boat bound for the Alaska fishing grounds there is little chance for him to leave until the boat returns. The employe signs a contract—which few understand, if they can read—to remain through the season. Practicaly all of the provisions of this contract are against the worker, and when the season is over he generally receives one-half of the wages he was engaged for. The "good American food" proves to be of the Chinese standard and the worker is compelled to pay for decent food.

Employes work in fish slime, acid, lye, and steam, which causes sores to break out. If the company physician reports the employe able to work and he refuses he is fined $3, which is deducted from his wages. Employes are promised free transportation to the point of sailing, but when they return, the transportation is taken from them. Business men who aid in the recruiting campaign are permitted to visit the vessels and sell shoddy goods at profiteering prices.

It is charged that there is no inspection of fish canning and conditions are a menace to the workers and to the public.

New York, Feb. 1.—The Alaska Packers' association has declared an extra dividend of 25 per cent. A previous dividend of 10 per cent makes a total disbursement of 35 per cent for the year ending February.

$16 A WEEK NECESSARY.

Washington, Feb. 1.—The minimum wage board of the District of Columbia, created by an act of congress, has ruled that $16 a week is the lowest amount any working woman can live on in the nation's capital. The board reports that of this amount $9 is necessary to pay for room and board. It is stated that a majority of working women in this city must be content with a room often poorly heated and shared with one, two, or not infrequently three other women.

The board will attempt to apply this minimum in each industry and the first will be the printing and publishing industry.

It is stated that 25 women in this industry are receiving less than $9 a week, 131 less than $11, 263 less than $13, 313 less than $15, with the remaining 1/3 of the 448 women employed in this industry receiving $15 or more.

Meetings of these workers will be held for the purpose of electing a committee to meet similar committees representing the employers and the public.

FEW WOMEN PAID $20.

New York, Feb. 1.—The percentage of women in this state paid $20 a week or more is small, reports the state industrial commission. In paper box and confectionery factories only 2 per cent reach this wage; in shirt and collar factories, 5 per cent; in mercantile establishments, 8 per cent, and in cigar and tobacco factories it is as high as 21 per cent. Girls under 16 are not included in the report.

These statistics include not only working women, so called, but every woman on the pay roll of the various establishments, except those working half time in mercantile shops.

The investigation covered reports of actual earnings for one week in November or December from more than 600 establishments with over 60,000 women employes in stores and in four factory industries. Commissions and bonuses were counted as earnings.

WIRE STRIKE THREATENED.

Boston, Feb. 1.—Delegates representing more than 12,000 men and women members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, who are employed by the telephone companies of New England, voted at a meeting in this city to strike if necessary to obtain wage increases.

It was voted to sent a request to Postmaster General Burleson for the creation of a commission or board, like that of the railroad workers, which can hear the requests of the workers and recommend wage increases. It was also voted to urge locals to petition their congressmen and senators for assistance in having Mr. Burleson act favorably on their petition.

DEMAND LESS HOURS.

New York, Feb. 1.—By a referendum vote organized fur workers declared in favor of striking if necessary to secure the 44-hour work week. The vote was 4,883 for a strike and 29 against.

The workers also demand better understandings with the employers as to lay offs because of slack season, minimum wage, regulation of outside contracting and the right of the worker to be given a reason for his discharge.

HIGHER WAGE URGED.

Washington, Feb. 1.—While urging higher wages for government employes, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Leffingwell told a house committee that he came to this city with the notion that Washington was "the refuge of loafers," and that the first thing he discovered was that he was wrong.

In many cases, the witness declared, government employes work "for the merest pittance."

BIG STEEL BUSINESS.

New York, Feb. 1.—The Bethlehem steel corporation did 45 times more business last year than it did in 1905, the first year in which the corporation operated.

Clear profits last year were $16,000,000. This does not include vast sums set aside for depreciation of the plant and to change from a war to a peace basis.

LENNON FOR MAYOR.

Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 1.—John B. Lennon, for years treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, has been nominated for mayor by the labor party of this city.

Interests of Property Can No Longer Replace Welfare of Citizens

Ottawa, Canada, Feb. 1. — More stress must be laid hereafter on the life, health and welfare of citizens declared President Rowell of the Dominion privy council, in a speech in this city.

"The first consideration now must be the living wage," he said. "I am prepared to say, in so far as I personally am concerned, having regard to the future of this great and growing nation, that any industry which cannot afford to pay a living wage cannot justify its continued existence here.

"In the future the social welfare of our people must receive ever-increasing attention at the hands of the government of the country, and one of the most important problems facing the government is the problem of the health and welfare of the people in the cities and towns where there is danger of congestion of population."

COMPENSATION THEORY ACCEPTED BY SOCIETY

Washington, Feb. 1.—The theory of compensation of workmen for accidents is now accepted in all but 10 states, says the bureau of labor statistics, in bulletin No. 243. Five new states came into the compensation fold in 1917 and one in 1918, while amending and supplemental laws were enacted in more than 30 jurisdictions.

It is shown that compensation legislation without suits to prove negligence of the employer is one of the most striking in the field of labor legislation in recent years. From indifference and even hostility hardly more than a year ago, the principle is accepted in all but 10 states and the day seems not far distant when the obsolete system of damage suits and charges and counter charges of negligence and contributory negligence will no longer be used in the disposition of industrial claims.

The fear once expressed that such legislation would entail undue burdens on industry has largely died out. It is being now understood that these laws do not cause injury losses, but only distributes the burden of them, relieving the weakest element of the system—the injured worker—and placing the cost of his injury on the industry as a whole. This realization has opened the way for amendments liberalizing the awards to be allowed, as regards both amount and duration, though the standard is as yet not of a uniformity nor of an adequacy that is shown to be desirable.

America Is Behind Times; Must Recognize Unions

New York, Feb. 1.—Interviewed by a local newspaper, G. S. Beebe, minister of labor and industry in the New South Wales government, said that America must recognize trade unions.

The Australian is in this country on a tour of investigation.

"Personally," he said, "I do not believe that the United States can obtain a proper degree of regulation without recognition of the right of workers to organize. As I see it, America is now debating or discussing first principles of industrialism that other countries have long since conceded. These principles include the standard working day, the living wage and some method of protection against unemployment, as well as proper protection of child labor. The latter is a weak spot in American industrialism, as I see it."

In discussing affairs in his own country, Mr. Beebe acknowledged that the present compulsory system for settling disputes has not brought results, and it is now proposed, he says, to remedy conditions by centralizing authority "and substitute a system of compulsory negotiation for compulsory arbitration."

He says the present system has "a judicial atmosphere," and that this can be remedied by establishing boards of laymen—employers and workers.

Mr. Beebe did not venture an opinion that the new compulsion would stop the recent strike of employes on New South Wales' government-owned railroads against a "speeding up" system, which spread throughout almost the entire continent of Australia. The government broke the strike and yet refers to the strikebreakers as "loyalists."

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Indianapolis, Feb. 1.—The Indiana house of representatives has passed a bill permitting women to vote at presidential elections. The measure now goes to the senate.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 1.—The state law giving women partial voting rights, operation of which has been suspended for nearly a year by efforts of anti-suffragists to have the act submitted to a referendum vote, became effective when a court issued a permanent injunction enjoining submission of the suffrage act to a referendum vote. The antis will appeal.

LAND FOR SOLDIERS.

Ottawa, Canada, Feb. 1.—Announcement is made that at the next session of the Dominion parliament the government may introduce legislation to secure unoccupied and untilled fertile lands near railroads for returned soldiers. If all other means fail it may be necessary to secure them by expropriation, according to President Rowell, of the privy council.

"LABOR AGITATORS" HELD.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 1.—Three officers of a Machinists' union were arrested for distributing band bills which advertised a union meeting to be held in the labor temple. The police said the unionists did not have a permit to distribute this literature and the judge said the men were "labor agitators," and he will take the matter up with the city law department.

WANT NON-UNION SHOP.

Seattle, Feb. 1.—The metal trades council has notified the Patterson-McDonald Ship Building company that it must cease its non-union practices.

URGE ANTI-INJUNCTION LAW.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 1.—Organized labor has reopened its fight on the injunction as used in strike times. A bill has been presented in the general assembly.